

Message Text

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TAGS: PORG, UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: TEXT OF SECRETARY VANCE'S STATEMENT

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IN SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 27.

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
SECRETARY VANCE IN UN SECURITY COUNCIL JULY 27 IMMEDIATELY
FOLLOWING ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS ON NAMIBIA AND WALVIS
BAY. FIRST PART OF STATEMENT WAS MADE AS REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED STATES AND SECOND PART CONCERNING WALVIS

BAY ON BEHALF OF WESTERN FIVE GOVERNMENTS.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF STATEMENT.

THIS IS AN AUSPICIOUS OCCASION IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND IN THE WORK OF THIS COUNCIL. AFTER MONTHS OF PAINSTAKING DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF MANY COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE UN ITSELF, WE ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO A PROBLEM NEARLY AS OLD AS THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. THE ISSUE OF NAMIBIA WAS FIRST RAISED IN THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1946, AND THE INABILITY OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO COME TO AN INTERNATIONALLY-ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM HAS, OVER THE YEARS, POSED AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

TODAY, BY DINT OF HARD WORK AND GOOD WILL, WE HAVE FINALLY SET IN MOTION THE PROCESS BY WHICH NAMIBIA WILL ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE PEACEFULLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385. IN TERMS OF THE PURPOSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE HISTORY OF THIS PROBLEM, IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT THIS PROCESS TAKE PLACE PEACEFULLY AND THROUGH DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

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I AM PLEASED THAT THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PLAY A ROLE IN WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. IT WOULD BE INCORRECT TO SINGLE OUT ANY ONE COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE MADE A CONTRIBUTION, AND IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT EACH CONTRIBUTION WAS IN ITS OWN WAY VITAL AND ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THIS DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENT BELONGS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF. IT HAS PROVIDED THE IMPETUS FOR A NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT, SERVED AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS LEADING TO THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, AND IS NOW PROVIDING THE MECHANISM FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, WHOSE SUPPORT AND ADVICE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE THROUGHOUT THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND WHO WILL HAVE TO SEE THE PROCESS THROUGH ITS CONCLUSION, MERITS OUR PARTICULAR GRATITUDE.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SOUTH WEST AFRICA PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION, WE MUST EXPRESS OUR SENSE OF APPRECIATION FOR THEIR PURSUIT OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO NAMIBIA INDEPENDENCE AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN WITH MEMBERS OF THIS COUNCIL IN WORKING DILIGENTLY

TOWARD THAT GOAL. TO THE FRONT LINE AFRICAN STATES, WITHOUT WHOSE ASSISTANCE THIS CONCLUSION TO OUR EFFORTS WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE, WE MUST EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE AND OUR BELIEF THAT IN FACILITATING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA THEY HAVE MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION THE PEACE AND STABILITY OF AFRICA AS A WHOLE. WE ALSO WISH TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE POSITIVE ROLE OTHER PARTIES IN NAMIBIA HAVE PLAYED IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

IN MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEW, THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT HAS

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BEEN ACHIEVED HAS IMPLICATIONS WHICH GO FAR BEYOND THE NAMIBIA PROBLEM ITSELF. THE SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS INTERNATIONAL ISSUE CAN ENCOURAGE SOLUTIONS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CASE OF RHODESIA. THERE THE SAME SPIRIT OF GOODWILL AND COMPROMISE EXHIBITED BY THE PARTIES IN NAMIBIA COULD CREATE A BASIS FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

BY OPENING A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF NAMIBIA, WE ALSO OPEN A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. THE WORLD BODY WILL NOW PROVIDE THE IMPETUS FOR THE EMERGENCE OF A NEWLY INDEPENDENT NATION. BY APPROVING THIS PROPOSAL FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE, AT ONE AND THE SAME TIME WE VOTE FOR AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA AND WE TAKE A STEP TO STRENGTHEN THE PRESTIGE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS ABILITY TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO CRITICAL PROBLEMS WHEREVER THEY ARISE. LET US HOPE THIS SUCCESS WILL SERVE AS AN EXAMPLE TO ENCOURAGE ALL OF US TO JOIN IN SEEKING EQUALLY POSITIVE SOLUTIONS TO OTHER CRITICAL PROBLEMS THAT CONFRONT THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

MR. PRESIDENT, THAT CONCLUDES MY REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES. I WOULD NOW LIKE TO MAKE AN ADDITIONAL STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, FRANCE, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE RESOLUTION ON WALVIS BAY WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

FROM THE BEGINNING OF OUR EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE BY NAMIBIA IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 385, OUR GOVERNMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS OF THE STRONGLY HELD VIEWS BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTIES CONCERNED ON THE STATUS OF WALVIS BAY. SINCE THESE OPPOSING VIEWS APPEARED TO BE IRRECONCILABLE, THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS DECIDED TO TAKE THE POSITION THAT THEY WOULD NOT INCLUDE ANY PROVISIONS ON THIS QUESTION IN THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE

NAMIBIAN SITUATION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE TERMS OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH WE SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON 10 APRIL CONTAIN NO MENTION OF WALVIS BAY.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE HAVE NO VIEWS CONCERNING THIS QUESTION. WE ADOPTED OUR POSITION IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT NO PROPOSAL ON WALVIS BAY APPEARED TO BE CAPABLE OF ACCEPTANCE BY THE PARTIES. INDEED, WE WERE ACUTELY AWARE THAT AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PROPOSAL WOULD MAKE AGREEMENT ON THE PROPOSAL IMPOSSIBLE.

THUS, IN OUR DISCUSSION WITH THE PARTIES WE DID NOT SEEK TO INITIATE A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS ISSUE. WE EMPHASIZED TO ALL CONCERNED OUR BELIEF THAT A DISCUSSION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF WALVIS BAY WOULD NOT BE USEFUL AND COULD ONLY CONTINUE TO HAMPER A RESOLUTION OF THE THIRTY-YEAR CONTROVERSY OVER NAMIBIA. INSTEAD, WE STATED ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS THAT THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY WOULD HAVE TO BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE, AND WE BELIEVE ALL PARTIES RECOGNIZE, THAT WALVIS BAY IS CRITICAL TO THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA. IN THIS CONNECTION, I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE WHAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CANADA SAID WHEN HE SPOKE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DURING THE NINTH SPECIAL SESSION ON APRIL 25TH.

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MR. JAMIESON SAID, AND I QUOTE:

"THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE NOTED THAT WE HAVE
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OMITTED FROM OUR PROPOSAL THE DIFFICULT QUESTION OF
WALVIS BAY FOR THE REASON THAT WE SEE NO WAY OF SETTLING
THE QUESTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS.
WE FEEL STRONGLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT
DELAY THE LONG-SOUGHT-AFTER INDEPENDENCE OF NAMIBIA.
WE CONSIDER THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION OF WALVIS
BAY MUST BE SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE SOUTH
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA.
WE HAVE FURTHERMORE, OBTAINED ASSURANCES THAT THE
STRENGTH OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE IN WALVIS BAY WILL NOT
BE INCREASED DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND THAT
NAMIBIANS IN WALVIS BAY WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THE TERRITORY DURING
THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, INCLUDING BY VOTING IN THE
ELECTIONS."

SINCE THAT TIME OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE GIVEN FURTHER
CONSIDERATION TO THIS DIFFICULT QUESTION. WE HAVE
CONFIRMED OUR POSITION THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO ENTER INTO
DISPUTES OF A LEGAL CHARACTER CONCERNING THE VARIOUS
CLAIMS AS TO THE STATUS OF WALVIS BAY. NEVERTHELESS,
WE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE ARGUMENTS OF A GEOGRAPHIC,
POLITICAL, SOCIAL CULTURAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE NATURE
WHICH SUPPORT THE UNION OF WALVIS BAY WITH NAMIBIA.
OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALSO TAKEN DUE NOTE OF THE FACT
THAT POLITICAL PARTIES IN NAMIBIA HOLD THE VIEW THAT

WALVIS BAY MUST BE PART OF AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA.

ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION
THAT IT IS APPROPRIATE THAT THE SECURITY
COUNCIL SHOULD ADOPT A RESOLUTION WHICH CALLS FOR "THE
INITIATION OF STEPS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE EARLY
REINTEGRATION OF WALVIS BAY INTO NAMIBIA." THIS RESOLU-
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TION DOES NOT PREJUDICE THE LEGAL POSITION OF ANY PARTY.
IT DOES NOT SEEK TO COERCE ANY PARTY. FOR OUR PART
WE WOULD LIKE TO STATE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ROLE WITH
RESPECT TO THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY. THE COMMITMENT OUR
FIVE GOVERNMENTS ARE UNDERTAKING BY VOTING IN FAVOR OF
THIS RESOLUTION IS TO STAND READY TO OFFER THE DIPLOMATIC
SUPPORT OF OUR GOVERNMENTS TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVE OF
A SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATION. WE VIEW OUR UNDERTAKING AS
CONSISTENT WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF THE CHARTER
OF THE UNITED NATIONS THAT DISPUTED QUESTIONS ARE TO
BE SETTLED PEACEFULLY.

WE CONSIDER THAT THE "STEPS NECESSARY" REFERRED TO IN
OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH TWO OF THE RESOLUTION ARE NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. ACCORDINGLY,
WE WILL ENCOURAGE NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
NAMIBIA THAT WILL BE ELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR
PROPOSAL FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE SITUATION, AND WE ARE
PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS
PUBLICLY INDICATED ITS READINESS TO ENTER INTO SUCH
DISCUSSIONS.

WE HOPE THAT THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION WILL MAKE
A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. IN OUR VIEW, THE SUPPORT OF THE
SECURITY COUNCIL IN RESOLVING THIS QUESTION IS ENTIRELY
APPROPRIATE IN VIEW OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES WHICH THE
UNITED NATIONS CHARTER BESTOWS UPON THIS BODY. OUR
GOVERNMENTS PLEDGE TO EXERT OUR BEST EFFORTS IN ORDER
TO PROMOTE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN EARLY, PEACEFUL, AND
SUCCESSFUL RESULT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS ON WALVIS

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